

STANDARD  
LIONESSE CLUB  
CONSTITUTION



THE LIONESSE CLUB OF

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SPONSORED BY  
THE LIONS CLUB OF

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*Immediately upon adoption by the club, a permanent copy of this Constitution and By-Laws is to be filed by the Secretary in her record book.*

# STANDARD LIONESSE CLUB CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I

### Name

1. The name of this organization is the \_\_\_\_\_ Lioness Club.

## ARTICLE II

### Purpose

1. The purposes of this club shall be:
  - (a) To cooperate with the Lions Club(s) of \_\_\_\_\_ in carrying out its service programs and activities.
  - (b) To provide community service opportunities for women.
  - (c) To unite its members in friendship, fellowship and mutual understanding.

## ARTICLE III

### Sponsorship

1. This club is sponsored by the Lions Club(s) of \_\_\_\_\_ and its operations shall be and are subject to the jurisdiction and supervision of said Lions Club(s). Such jurisdiction and supervision shall be exercised in a manner which will promote the best interests of the Lioness Club Program.

## ARTICLE IV

### Projects

1. Subject to the provisions of Article III, this club may plan and implement service projects within its community in addition to those projects in which it lends support and cooperation to the Lions Club(s) of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Community Services of this club shall be financed primarily through public fund-raising projects. Direct costs of any such project may be paid from funds so raised, but no portion of the net income realized in any public fund-raising project shall be used to finance any administrative expense of this club or to directly or indirectly benefit this club or any member thereof. All such net income shall be used exclusively for charitable purposes.

## ARTICLE V

### Membership

1. Membership in this club shall be granted to any female person:
  - (a) Who is of legal majority, the wife of a member in good standing of the Lions Club(s) of \_\_\_\_\_ and who requests membership in writing and pays the then required fees of this club.
  - (b) Who is of legal majority and not the wife of a Lions Club member, but who, upon sponsorship of a member of this club and approval of the club Board of Directors, receives and accepts a written invitation to join and pays the then required fees of this club.

2. Classes: Membership in this club shall be Active and such other classes as the By-Laws of this club may provide.
5. Termination: Membership in this club shall cease and terminate upon:
  - (a) Acceptance by the club's Board of Directors of a written resignation. The Board may withhold acceptance of any resignation until all indebtedness has been paid, all club funds and property have been returned, and all right to the use of the club name, emblem and other insignia has been surrendered.
  - or (b) Termination of existence of this club as provided in Article XV.
  - or (c) Vote therefor at a regular or special club meeting of no less than two-thirds (2/3) of the entire membership of this club in good standing at the time of such vote.
  - or (d) Vote therefor of no less than two-thirds (2/3) of all members of this club's Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Meetings**

1. Club Meetings:
  - (a) Regular business meetings of this club shall be held at such times and places as set forth in the By-Laws.
  - (b) The club president may at any time call, and upon written request to her by no less than twenty-five (25%) percent of the members in good standing, shall call a special meeting of the club. Such call may be given verbally or in writing, but it shall be given to each member in good standing and shall designate a time and place reasonably convenient to a majority of the members in good standing and state, generally, the purpose of such meeting. Such notice, if written, shall be considered as given when deposited in the mails and addressed to a member at her address as shown on the club records at the time of mailing.
  - (c) Quorum: The presence in person of a majority of the members in good standing shall be necessary for a quorum at any regular or special meeting of this club.
2. Board of Directors Meetings:
  - (a) Regular business meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at times and places as provided in the By-Laws.
  - (b) The president may at any time call, and upon the written request of any three (3) members of the Board shall call, a special meeting of the Board. Such call may be given verbally or in writing but it shall be given to every member thereof, and shall designate a time and place reasonably convenient to a majority of such members and set forth, generally, the purpose of such meeting. Such notice, if written, shall be considered as given when deposited in the mails and addressed to the member at her address shown on the club records at the time of mailing.
  - (c) The presence in person of the president or vice-president and any three (3) other members of the Board shall be necessary for a quorum at any regular or special meeting of the Board.

- (d) Any member of this club in good standing shall have the right to attend any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors, but no such member may speak at any Board meeting except by consent of the Board.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Officers**

1. The officers of this club shall be a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer and such other officer(s) as may be provided in the By-Laws. Each officer shall be a member in good standing, shall take office on the July 1 following her election and shall serve for a term of one (1) year or until her successor has been elected and qualified. No member may hold two (2) offices simultaneously.
2. Unless specifically provided otherwise in this Constitution, the duties of the officers shall be those assigned to their respective offices under Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Board of Directors**

Subject to the provisions of Article III:

1. The control and supervision of the business and affairs of this club shall rest in a Board of Directors composed of all officers of the club and three (3) directors elected from the members in good standing.
2. Unless rescinded or modified by the Board itself, decisions of the Board of Directors shall be effective for all purposes unless and until reversed or modified by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of this club in good standing at the time of the vote.
3. The Board of Directors shall have general control over all committees and officers, may override the decision or action of any officer, and for good cause, may declare any office vacant and appoint a member in good standing to fill any unexpired term thereof.
4. The Board of Directors shall present an annual report of its operations to the club membership and to the sponsoring Lions Club.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **Elections**

1. Elections of officers and directors shall be held annually, at a meeting specified in the club By-Laws. No more than a plurality of the votes cast for any office or directorship shall be necessary for election thereto.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **Committees**

1. The By-Laws shall provide for Constitution and By-Laws, Finance, Project and such other Standing Committees as may be deemed necessary for administration of the club. The president, with the approval of the Board, may appoint such Special Committees as she deems necessary from time to time.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **Fees and Dues**

1. In addition to a minimum entrance fee of \$2.50 per new member, this club shall charge such additional fees and dues as shall be necessary from time to time to meet the administrative costs of this club and as are specified in the By-Laws.
2. Any member who shall owe this club any monetary obligation at the time of any vote at any regular or special meeting, or at any other time at which the question of good standing is raised, shall automatically forfeit the privilege of voting by virtue thereof and be considered for all purposes as not in good standing so long as said obligation remains unpaid.

## **ARTICLE XII**

1. By accepting membership herein, each member of this club agrees to uphold and be bound by Lioness Club policies of The International Association of Lions Clubs and the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of this club.

## **ARTICLE XIII—BY-LAWS**

1. The Board of Directors of this club shall prepare and present, and a majority of the members in good standing of this club shall adopt, at a regular or special meeting, such By-Laws as are deemed necessary to the efficient operation of this club; PROVIDED, however, that all such By-Laws shall be consistent with the provisions of this Constitution. Any By-Laws, or amendments thereto or repeal thereof, which shall contravene any provision of this Constitution or any policy of The International Association of Lions Clubs shall be null and void and of no effect from inception.

## **ARTICLE XIV**

### **Emblem**

1. The emblem of this club shall be:



Such emblem shall be and remain the sole property of the International Association of Lions Clubs and shall be the emblem of the club and members thereof only so long as the Certificate of Organization of this club has not been revoked by The International Association of Lions Clubs.

2. Each member of this club shall be entitled to wear or otherwise display the same in a dignified and appropriate manner only during the period of her membership. Such entitlement shall automatically cease upon termination of her membership or the existence of this club.

## **ARTICLE XV**

### **Duration**

1. This club shall cease to exist upon the occurrence of any of the following:
  - (a) Vote of this club to terminate.
  - (b) Receipt by any officer of this club of written notice of withdrawal of sponsorship by the Lions Club(s) of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (c) Receipt by any officer of this club of written notice of revocation of Certificate of Organization of this club by The International Association of Lions Clubs.
2. By virtue of termination under any provision in Section 1, and without the necessity of any other act, all rights and privileges of this club and each member thereof to use the Lioness Club name and emblem shall thereon be automatically relinquished and surrendered.

## **ARTICLE XVI**

### **Parliamentary Authority**

Unless specifically provided otherwise in this Constitution, all questions of Parliamentary procedure in the operations of this club shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

## **ARTICLE XVII**

### **Amendments**

This Constitution may be amended only by action of the Board of Directors of The International Association of Lions Clubs and all amendments adopted by said Board of Directors shall automatically amend and become provisions of this Constitution.

## **ARTICLE XVIII**

The fiscal year of this club shall run from July 1 to June 30.

## **SUGGESTED LIONESS CLUB BY-LAWS**

BY-LAWS OF THE \_\_\_\_\_ LIONESS CLUB

## **ARTICLE I**

### **Elections**

1. Election of officers and directors of this club shall be held annually prior to \_\_\_\_\_, Those elected shall take office on July 1 following their election.
2. Nominations of officers shall be made either in writing or from the floor. Candidates shall be voted upon at the regular meeting following the meeting at which nominations are made. Voting shall be by secret ballot or such other method as the Board of Directors shall determine. Those candidates receiving a plurality of the votes cast by the members present and in good standing shall be elected.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **Fees and Dues**

1. Each new member shall pay an entrance fee of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Each Active member shall pay annual dues of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
3. No other assessment of members shall be made for any purpose whatsoever.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Committees**

1. The president, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint the following Standing Committees:
  - (a) Constitution and By-Laws—This Committee shall be responsible for reporting any violations of the Constitution and By-Laws of this club to the Board of Directors and for study and recommendation to the club membership of any needed or proposed amendments to the club By-Laws.
  - (b) Finance—This Committee shall be responsible for determining ways and means of financing any and all club operations, and projects.
  - (c) Project—This Committee shall be responsible for initiation and implementation of club community projects.
  - (d) No Committee of this club shall take any action to effect its plans until the same have been approved by the Board of Directors at a duly constituted Board Meeting.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **Amendments**

1. These By-Laws may be amended at any regular or special meeting of this club but only upon the affirmative vote of a majority of all members in good standing. PROVIDED:
  - (a) Notice of the respective amendment or amendments and the meeting at which such amending vote is to be taken is given at least fourteen (14) days prior thereto at a regular meeting at which a quorum is present and
  - (b) such amendment or amendments is approved by the Lions Club of \_\_\_\_\_
2. Any provision of these By-Laws which conflicts with the Constitution of this club shall be null and void and of no force or effect from inception.

## **ARTICLE \_\_\_\_\_**

(Such other provision as may be necessary to efficient operation of this club.)



## **STATEMENT OF POLICY OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **OFFICIALLY SANCTIONING AND IMPLEMENTING LIONESSE CLUB PROGRAM**

1. A Lioness Club Program is hereby established as an official activity of Lions Clubs International. It shall be effected and implemented solely in accordance with policy established from time to time by the Board of Directors of Lions Clubs International.
2. Purpose: The purposes of this Program are:
  - (a) To enable women in communities around the world to cooperate with Lions Clubs in carrying out their service programs and activities.
  - (b) To provide community service opportunities for women.
  - (c) To unite members of Lioness Clubs in friendship, fellowship and mutual understanding.
3. Name and Emblem:
  - (a) The name of this Program shall be the Lioness Club Program and all clubs recognized thereunder shall be known as Lioness Clubs.
  - (b) The emblem of the Lioness Club Program and of each club shall be a script form capital letter "L" with the Association emblem in the center of the stem of the letter "L" and the phrase "Lioness Club" in print across the bottom leg of the letter "L".
  - (c) The Lioness Club name and emblem are the sole property of Lions Clubs International, and all ownership rights in and all obligation with respect to protection and preservation thereof shall rest in and is retained by Lions Clubs International.
  - (d) A Lioness Club sponsored by one Lions Club may take the name of its sponsoring Lions Club or with the approval of the sponsoring Lions Club may take a name reflecting the place, area or region in which it is located, providing such name is not the name of another existing Lions or Lioness Club.
  - (e) A Lioness Club sponsored by more than one Lions Club may take a name reflecting the place, area or region in which it is located, providing such name is not the name of another existing Lions or Lioness Club.
4. Jurisdiction: The Board of Directors of Lions Clubs International shall have and does hereby retain all authority, control and supervision over all aspects of the Lioness Club Program, including but not by way of limitation, establishment and implementation of constitutional, organizational, procedural and all other operation requirements of said program and methods for enforcement of the same.
  - (a) Constitution:
    - (1) The Board of Directors of Lions Clubs International shall frame, and all Lioness Clubs shall adopt and be governed by a Standard Lioness Club Constitution.
    - (2) All Activities, projects, and programs of Lioness Clubs shall be conducted in harmony with the policies of the International Board of Directors and the Standard Lioness Club Constitution, and all amendments thereto. The Board of Directors of Lions Clubs International, only, shall have power to amend the Standard Lioness Club Constitution.

- (3) Each Lioness Club may adopt By-Laws which shall be consistent with the Standard Lioness Club Constitution and with policy established by Lions Clubs International. Such By-Laws and any subsequent amendments thereto shall be subject to the approval of the sponsoring Lions Club(s).
- (b) Sponsorship:
- (1) No group or organization shall be recognized as a Lioness Club by Lions Clubs International unless sponsored by a Lions Club. No Lions Club may sponsor a Lioness Club except in accordance with the Lioness Club Program policies established from time to time by the Board of Directors of Lions Clubs International.
- (2) The sponsoring Lions Club is responsible for organization, supervision and guidance of the Lioness Club, which Club shall be certified and recognized by Lions Clubs International so long as it operates within the policies established by Lions Clubs International.
- (3) Two or more Lions Clubs may jointly sponsor a Lioness Club upon written approval of the International Board of Directors provided that one Lions Club is designated as the liaison for instruction, direction and mailing from Lions Clubs International.
- (4) A Lions Club may sponsor any group of women of legal majority, comprised of (a) only wives of Lions in good standing, or (b) wives, relatives and those not related to Lions who wish to organize a Lioness Club.
- (c) Operating Procedures:
- (1) A Lions Club may request from Lions Clubs International a Certificate of Organization of a women's group as a Lioness Club, upon submission to the International Office of necessary forms containing names and addresses of original members and officers elected, and verification of adoption of the Standard Lioness Club Constitution by its members.
- (2) A Certificate of Organization signed by the International President shall be forwarded to the sponsoring Lions Club President for formal presentation to the President of the Lioness Club at an appropriately planned meeting.
- (3) Thereafter, on the first day of July each year, the sponsoring Lions Club shall send its remittance to cover the annual payment due to Lions Clubs International. Likewise, the Lioness Club Secretary shall submit to the International Office an up-to-date Membership Report which includes Lioness Club Officers and members and the name of the current Lioness Club Liaison, with a copy to the sponsoring Lions Club and the District Lioness Club Chairman on or before the first day of July each year.
- (4) Each Lioness Club may secure for its members items bearing the Lioness Club Emblem in the Official Supply Catalog. Orders for such purchases, if accompanied by payment for the entire purchase including postage, may be made directly to the International Office. Orders to be billed to the sponsoring Lions Club's account shall be made through the Secretary of the sponsoring Lions Club. Reimbursement to the sponsoring Lions Club shall be made by the respective Lioness Club members through its regular procedure for handling such administrative funds.
- (5) Lions Clubs International shall furnish each recognized Lioness Club membership cards through the sponsoring Lions Club.
- (6) Financing the cost of the Lioness Club Program:

- a. No part of the expenses of Lioness Club Officers or meetings of Lioness Clubs or groups of Lioness Clubs shall be paid by Lions Clubs International.
  - b. It is the responsibility of the respective Lioness Club membership to raise funds necessary to carry out the program of the Club.
- (7) The District Lioness Club Chairman shall prepare an Annual Lioness Club Statistical Report to be submitted to the International Office no later than August 15 of each fiscal year. This report shall specify the number of Lioness Clubs in the District, along with the names of the sponsoring Lions Clubs.
- (8) Termination or Cancellation of Lioness Clubs
  - a. Article XV of the Standard Lioness Club Constitution shall be followed if Lioness Club members wish to terminate their Lioness Club.
  - b. If a Lions Club wishes to cancel its Lioness Club without the mutual agreement of the Lioness members, the Lions Club shall give the Lioness Club thirty days notice, along with a written report listing reasons for cancellation; a copy of this report shall be sent on the same date to the Lioness Club Liaison, District Lioness Club Chairman and District Governor.
  - If the District officials are not able to resolve the differences between the Lions and Lioness Club within a thirty day period, the Lions Club may then request cancellation of their Lioness Club, and upon submission to the International Office of a copy of the report on the reasons for cancellation, the Lioness Club shall then be cancelled.
- (d) Sanctions:
  - (1) A member of a Lioness Club shall relinquish all rights and privileges pertaining to membership therein, including the right to wear and display the Lioness Club Emblem when her membership, or the existence of her club, is terminated.
  - (2) The existence of a Lioness Club shall be terminated:
    - a. Upon vote of its membership, or
    - b. withdrawal of sponsorship by its sponsoring Lions Club, or
    - c. withdrawal of recognition by Lions Clubs International, with or without the consent of the sponsoring Lions Club.
- 5. District Organization Relating to Lioness Clubs
  - (a) Organization and operation of Lioness Clubs above the club level shall not be permitted except under policy and structures approved, from time to time, by the International Board of Directors.
  - (b) District Lioness Club Chairman: The position of District Lioness Chairman, when established, may be filled only by a Lion whose primary function is to provide information on the Lioness Club Program and help, when requested, in the formation of new Lioness Clubs. It should be pointed out District Governors are not required to fill the position of District Lioness Chairman unless at least one Lioness Club is established in the District or efforts are being made to initiate this program in the District.
- 6. Lioness Club Liaison: Each Lions Club sponsoring a Lioness Club shall appoint a Lion member after consultation with the said Lioness Club as the Club Liaison and report his name to the International Office each year.



**THE  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF LIONS CLUBS**

300 22nd STREET  
OAK BROOK, ILLINOIS 60570, USA

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